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**AGNEW WILL KEEP
 2 SPEAKING DATES**

**Richardson Abruptly Drops
 Flight to Texas Because of
 'Most Pressing Business'**

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 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—

As Vice President Agnew's attorneys prepared to go into court by Wednesday to try to head off an investigation and possible indictment of their client, Mr. Agnew's office announced today that he still planned to make a speaking trip to California this week.

In contrast to the Vice President's business-as-usual announcement, Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson abruptly canceled a speech in Texas because of "the most pressing of national business."

The two decisions, which were interpreted by many here as part of a war of nerves between the Vice President and the Justice Department, came in the wake of reports that Mr. Agnew would resign if assured that he would not be indicted by a Federal grand jury in Baltimore investigating bribery and extortion.

The Vice President has persistently denied the reports.

Justice Department spokes-

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men would not confirm that the phrase "the most pressing of national business" referred to the Agnew matter. The phrase was in a letter of apology to Quinn Tamm, head of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

However, one official noted that the trip to San Antonio would have involved about eight hours of air travel for the Attorney General. He said that Mr. Richardson did not "want to be out of touch" for that long a time.

The manner in which the cancellation was handled led those close to the Justice Department to believe that it was meant to be a signal to the Vice President and his attorneys that the department was intent on pressing urgently ahead with the Baltimore investigation.

Mr. Richardson called Mr. Tamm on Saturday to say that he could not make the speech

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that was scheduled for 11:30 A.M. today.

But the letter, which was quickly leaked to a number of newsmen, was dated today and delivered personally by a department aide to Mr. Tamm in San Antonio.

The unusual cancellation and the leaking of the letter, which was not officially released, was interpreted by one knowledgeable observer at the department as a tactic on the part of Mr. Richardson to counter moves by the Vice President.

The observer interpreted the announcement that the Vice President was setting up a defense fund and his attorneys' decision to file motions to attempt to block the grand jury investigation as messages to the department that Mr. Agnew was prepared to tie up the matter in the courts for a long time. That would keep the issue before the public, to the possible embarrassment of the Nixon Administration, the observer noted.

Repeated Meetings

In the last few weeks Mr. Agnew's attorneys have met repeatedly with Justice Department officials in an effort to avoid a legal and constitutional confrontation, which could result in a test of whether a sitting Vice President has immunity from prosecution if he is not impeached.

Yesterday a friend of Mr. Agnew reported that the Vice President had decided to "confront head-on" the possibility that he might be indicted by the Baltimore grand jury for alleged bribery and extortion extending over his career as the Baltimore County Executive and the Governor of Maryland.

But sources close to his attorneys let it be known that a last-minute compromise with the Federal prosecutors might be possible.

Today, however, the Vice President's attorneys, Judah Best of Washington, and Martin London and Jay H. Topkis, both of whom are with the New York firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, apparently did not continue their negotiations with Justice Department officials.

They were seen leaving the

Executive Office Building, where Mr. Agnew spent the day, at 12:30 P.M. After lunching at Sans Souci, they emerged at 2 P.M. and went to their separate Washington offices without commenting to newsmen.

At the Washington office of their firm, Mr. Topkis and Mr. London were busy with law books and briefs in the library, leaving the impression that they would file their motions Wednesday as planned.

Assurance by Warren

At the Department of Justice, Mr. Richardson and Henry E. Petersen, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the criminal division, who have been in close touch with the Baltimore investigation, spent most of the day in their respective offices.

Meanwhile, some friends of the Vice President reported that they had "gained the impression" that President Nixon had asked him to resign several days ago. They said that Mr. Agnew at first appeared crushed, but now was angry.

At a news briefing at the White House today, Gerald L. Warren, the deputy press secretary, assured newsmen that Mr. Agnew had not resigned. However, he did not rule out the possibility that resignation was discussed at the meeting last Thursday between Mr. Agnew and Mr. Nixon.

Noting that the President and the Vice President had agreed that their staffs would not publicly discuss the situation, Mr. Warren did report that Mr. Nixon had not talked since Thursday with Mr. Agnew, Mr. Richardson or John B. Connally, the former Texas Governor who has been mentioned as a possible successor to the Vice President.

In the meantime, insiders at the Federal courthouse in Baltimore report that the prosecutors in the office of United States Attorney George Beall, who is handling the grand jury investigation, are livid over delays imposed by Mr. Richardson while talks have gone on with the Agnew attorneys.

So far no grand jury meeting has been scheduled this week. Because the jury usually meets on Thursday, which will be Roshha-Shanah, the

Jewish New Year observers in delay.

Baltimore foresaw a further delay. On Wednesday, the day his attorneys are expected to go to court on his behalf, Vice President Agnew is scheduled to give a private talk to insurance executives at Pebble Beach, Calif. On Saturday he is due to address the Federation of Republican Women in Los Angeles.

Mr. Agnew's press spokesman, J. Marsh Thomson, said that he did not know yet whether the Vice President would return to Washington between the two speaking engagements. However, he said that he thought Mr. Agnew "might try to grab a couple of days and go to Palm Springs."

May Visit Sinatra

He said if Mr. Agnew did go there he would probably stay at the home of his friend Frank Sinatra.

In another development today, The Washington Star-News reported that it had learned from an unnamed source that Joal Kline, a multi-millionaire Maryland land investor, had told Federal prosecutors in Baltimore that he had acted as a "conduit" for as much as \$100,000 in cash that had gone to Maryland officials including Mr. Agnew.

The newspaper said it could not be determined whether the money had been in the form of campaign contributions.

On Aug. 3, Mr. Kline pleaded guilty, in a separate case, in a United States District Court in Washington to one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice in a Federal investigation of his business dealings.

Attempts to reach Mr. Kline, his attorney, Stephen Sachs, a former United States Attorney in Baltimore, or the present United States Attorney to check on the report were unavailing.

\$2-Million Theft in San Juan

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Sept. 24 (UPI)—Two million dollars worth of diamonds, gold and other precious metals were stolen early today from a jewelry factory that opened a little more than a week ago, the police said.